Rule Statement

As a state-supported institution of higher education, Texas A&M University-Commerce remains neutral in partisan political activities. Individual faculty, staff, and students continue to enjoy their constitutional rights and privileges concerning freedom of speech and participation in political events. While A&M-Commerce encourages the free exchange of ideas and will protect freedom of speech, the university maintains its right to impose reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on acts of expression on university property.

Reason for Rule

This rule identifies the extents and limits of the university relative to political affiliations, doctrines, campaigns, or events held on campus.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1 ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES AND OFFICEHOLDERS

A&M-Commerce may not endorse, recommend, or otherwise indicate partisan political support for any candidate for an elected office, or for any current officeholder of such an office. University employees may not represent their personal political viewpoints as official university endorsement, support, or promotion of political candidates or partisan political activities.

2 DISCRIMINATION BASED ON POLITICAL VIEWPOINT

A&M-Commerce will not discriminate against any organization or individual on the basis of political affiliation or doctrine, nor will it favor any political organization or doctrine over another.
3 CURRENT OFFICEHOLDERS

When a holder of political office visits A&M-Commerce, the officeholder shall be afforded all due respect and courtesies to which the office entitles. However, the officeholder may not engage in any partisan political activities, including campaigning for self or on behalf of others, unless the officeholder complies with the university’s rule dealing with campaigning (see Section 4.1). If the nature of an officeholder’s visit is not clear prior to arrival, the University should use its best efforts to determine in advance if the officeholder will be engaging in any partisan activities during the visit.

4 POLITICAL CAMPAIGN EVENTS ON A&M-COMMERCE PROPERTY

4.1 Political Campaign Meetings or Speeches. Student organizations that are officially chartered and currently registered with the A&M-Commerce Student Involvement Suite, and faculty or staff groups that are recognized by A&M-Commerce and which meet on campus, may invite candidates for political office or current officeholders to speak at the group’s meeting. These groups are responsible for informing campus officials about the events to ensure the officeholders shall be afforded all due respect and courtesies to which their office entitles.

4.2 Political Campaign Advertising. Officially chartered and currently registered student organizations may create and post advertisements for their events including on-campus political speakers, provided the dates of their events are clearly printed on all materials. In the event the campus is used as an official polling place, the official elections and campaign rules and regulations of that election will supersede A&M-Commerce political campaign advertising regulations.

5 USE OF SYMBOLS, INSIGNIA, AND OTHER IDENTIFYING MARKS

A&M-Commerce prohibits the use of any of its symbols, insignia, or other identifiable marks in association with any partisan political activities.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

System Policy 07.03 Conflicts of Interest, Dual Office Holding, and Political Activities

System Regulation 07.03.01 Political Campaign Events on Property Under the Control of The Texas A&M University System

Contact Office

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